



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

AKORD
99-00086

WT Docket #96-86

January 20, 1999

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In Reply Refer to
2000F/GFK

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
United States Senate
453 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituents, Ms. Cecil E. Powell and Mr. Gary D Rader, Mayors of Lawnton, Oklahoma and Weatherford, Oklahoma. The Mayors' letters express support for providing additional radio spectrum for public safety communications, especially for interoperability. Specifically, they identify three megahertz of spectrum in the 139.0-140.5 MHz and 141.5-143 MHz bands (138-144 MHz band) that the National Telecommunications Industry Association recently identified for reallocation from federal governmental to private and commercial services. The Mayors' state that the 138-144 MHz band is ideal for public safety communications because it is near existing, congested spectrum used by public safety entities (i.e., 150-170 MHz). As a result, they suggest existing public safety radios easily could operate on both bands, thereby facilitating interoperability.

The Commission is acutely aware of the important role played by public safety communications in protecting life and property. I can assure you that the Commission and this Division are committed to continuing our efforts to ensure that the critical spectrum needs for public safety communications are met. As requested, we have entered the Mayors letters into the record of WT Docket No. 96-86.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

D'wana R. Terry
Chief, Public Safety and Private Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Enclosure

Copy to:
The Honorable Ceciel E. Powell
The Honorable Gary D. Rader

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List ABCDE

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United States Senate

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COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
INTELLIGENCE

December 8, 1998

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Legislative and
Intergovernmental Affairs
Attn: Lou Sizemore
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Sizemore

I take this opportunity to write to you on behalf of two of my constituents regarding the issue of the Public Safety Interoperability Band. It is my understanding the Wireless Bureau currently has a matter in a public comment period which pertains to this issue. At this time, I respectfully ask you please include the enclosed correspondence in WT-Docket 96-86. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

JMI/dsp
enclosures

WTB
or docket
86

Dec 22 11 55 AM '98



Office of the Mayor
103 SW 4th Street
Lawton, Oklahoma 73501
(580) 581-3301
TDD Available

Honorable James M Inhofe
United States Senate
453 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-3601

Dear Honorable Inhofe:

We are writing to urge you and your colleagues to give careful consideration to the provision of additional radio spectrum for public safety communications, especially interoperability. The spate of natural disasters over the past year has increased the concern we identified in last year's Balanced Budget Act, P. L. 105-33, over the need to ensure additional spectrum to provide interoperability between and among public safety communications systems, to provide relief from highly congested frequency bands, and to enable public safety agencies to upgrade their communications systems. In the City of Lawton, we face interference in our ability to communicate in responding to disasters, and we do not have interoperability with our neighboring jurisdictions.

We believe a portion of the band identified by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) might be an ideal opportunity. Title III of the new Act required the NTIA to identify 20 MHz of spectrum below 3 GHz for reallocation by the FCC for private and commercial services. This spectrum is in addition to the radio spectrum recently made available to public safety from TV channels 60-69 at the upper end of the UHF television band, also pursuant to the Budget Act. Pursuant to its duties, NTIA has recently identified for reallocation 3 MHz of radio spectrum in the 138-144 MHz band (139.0-140.5 MHz and 141.5-143 MHz), but not until 2008. This spectrum, currently assigned for military use, is free of government use and therefore available for private use in many parts of the country today.

The 138-144 MHz radio band is ideal for public safety communications. It is close to the nearby 150-170 MHz band, which is the principal -- but highly congested -- band for fire, police forestry, highway and other public safety communications across the country. Thus, the equipment is relatively low in cost; and the frequencies provide excellent propagation characteristics for mobile/portable radio systems.


We cannot overemphasize the importance of securing this additional radio spectrum for interoperability of our nation's public safety communications systems. All too often, public safety personnel from different jurisdictions, and even different agencies within the same jurisdiction, are unable to communicate with each other when responding to emergencies. This problem occurs largely because of the incompatibility of radio

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HC-22840

equipment operating on different frequencies. The creation of a "Public Safety Interoperability Band" utilizing spectrum technically close enough to existing public safety bands could allow for the manufacture of radios capable of operating on existing and new spectrum allocations. Reallocating a portion of the 138-144 MHz band for the establishment of a "Public Safety Interoperability Band," and to supplement other critical functions, would greatly improve our Nation's public safety communications systems.

Sincerely,


Cecil E. Powell,
Mayor

cc: Council Members
City Manager
Communications Director

CEP/lrg



CITY OF

Weatherford

RECEIVED

P.O. BOX 569

522 WEST RAINEY

WEATHERFORD, OK 73096

(405) 772-7451

FAX (405) 772-5112

August 19, 1998

The Honorable James Inhofe
United States Senator
453 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

I am writing to urge you and your colleagues to give careful consideration to the provision of additional radio spectrum for public safety communications, especially interoperability. The spate of natural disasters over the past year has increased the concern we identified in last year's Balanced Budget Act, P.L. 105-33, over the need to ensure additional spectrum to provide interoperability between and among public safety communications systems, to provide relief from highly congested frequency bands, and to enable public safety agencies to upgrade their communications Systems. In our city of Weatherford, we face interference in our ability to communicate in responding to disasters.

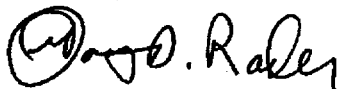
We believe a portion of the band identified by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) might be an ideal opportunity. Title III of the new Act required by the NTIA to identify 20 MHz of spectrum below 3 GHz for reallocation by the FCC for private and commercial services. This spectrum is in addition to the radio spectrum recently made available to public safety from TV channels 60-69 at the upper end of the UHF television band, also pursuant to the Budget Act. Pursuant to its duties, NTIA has recently identified for reallocation 3 MHz of radio spectrum in the 138-144 MHz band (139.0-140.5 MHz and 141.5-143 MHz), but not until 2008. This spectrum, currently assigned for military use, is free of government use and therefore available for private use in many parts of the country today.

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We cannot overemphasize the importance of securing this additional radio spectrum for interoperability of our nation's public safety communications systems. All too often, public safety personnel from different jurisdictions, and even different agencies within the same jurisdiction, are unable to communicate with each other when responding to emergencies. This problem occurs largely because of the incompatibility of radio equipment operating on different frequencies. The creation of a "Public Safety Interoperability Band" utilizing spectrum

technically close enough to existing public safety bands could allow for the manufacture of radios capable of operating on existing and new spectrum allocations. Reallocating a portion of the 138-144 MHz band for the establishment of a "Public Safety Interoperability Band," and to supplement other critical functions, would greatly improve our Nation's public safety communications systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary D. Rader". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent.

Gary D. Rader
Mayor

GDR/dkf